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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/615,308	07/08/2003	Russell F. Ross	KCX-325-DIV (14759.1)	9371
22827	7590	04/26/2004	EXAMINER	
DORITY & MANNING, P.A. POST OFFICE BOX 1449 GREENVILLE, SC 29602-1449			HALPERN, MARK	
			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
			1731	
DATE MAILED: 04/26/2004				

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

AS

Office Action Summary	Application No. 10/615,308	Applicant(s) ROSS ET AL.	
	Examiner Mark Halpern	Art Unit 1731	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on ____.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 23-55 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) ____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) ____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 23-55 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) ____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) ____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on ____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. ____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|---|---|
| 1) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. ____. |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| 3) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date <u>7/8/03</u> . | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: ____. |

DETAILED ACTION

- 1) Acknowledgement is made of Response received 3/18/2004. Claims 23-55 are under consideration.

Specification

- 2) Reference to related applications should be corrected to recite - Application 09/954,487, filed 9/17/2001, now US 6,631,566 -.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(a) the invention was known or used by others in this country, or patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country, before the invention thereof by the applicant for a patent.

- 3) Claims 23-24, 30-32, are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(a) as being anticipated by Heikkila (WO 99/57367).

Claims 23-24, 30-32: Heikkila discloses method of drying a paper using a dryer having a first wet hooded section 14, 16, and a second dry hooded section 18, surrounding Yankee cylinder 10. A formed paper web is first dried at an elevated temperature of above 500 °C in the wet section where the web becomes relatively dry and subsequently the web is dried within the second section at temperature below 500 °C. A supply of air for the wet section enters the dryer via air heating equipment 22, a

supply of air for the dry section enters the dryer via air heating equipment 24, and a first stream of from air heating 20 enters the first dryer section to provide the elevated temperature in the first dryer section (pgs 7-8, and Figures 1-2).

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

4) Claims 25-29, are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Heikkila. Heikkila is applied as above for claim 23, Heikkila is silent on the temperature variations within the first or second dryer section, however it would have been obvious to one skilled in the art at the time the invention was made, that the temperature variations, increases or decreases in temperature occur within the dryer sections since such variations are controlled by the flow of heated air entering into the dryer sections and the degree to which the air is heated in the incoming air heating equipment.

5) Claims 33-55, are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Heikkila in view of Oubridge (4,462,868).

Claim 33: Heikkila is applied as above for claim 23, Heikkila is silent on the dryer being a through-dryer. Oubridge discloses a paper web being dried in a dryer having a hood with two sections and having a through drying drum 20 (Oubridge, col. 3, line 4 to col. 4, line 50 and Figure 1). It would have been obvious to combine the

teachings of Heikkila and Oubridge because such a combination would provide for faster drying in the design of Heikkila as disclosed by Oubridge (Oubridge, col. 1, lines 25-30).

Claims 34-35: the solids consistency varies from wet paper to dry paper from 25% to as high as 90% (Oubridge, col. 2, lines 14-25).

Claims 36-37, 43-46, 52-55: Heikkila discloses method of drying a paper using a dryer having a first wet hooded section 14, 16, and a second dry hooded section 18, surrounding Yankee cylinder 10. A formed paper web is first dried at an elevated temperature of above 500 °C in the wet section where the web becomes relatively dry and subsequently the web is dried within the second section at temperature below 500 °C. A supply of air for the wet section enters the dryer via air heating equipment 22, a supply of air for the dry section enters the dryer via air heating equipment 24, and a first stream of from air heating 20 enters the first dryer section to provide the elevated temperature in the first dryer section (Heikkila, pgs 7-8, and Figures 1-2). Heikkila is silent on the dryer being a through-dryer. Oubridge discloses a paper web being dried in a dryer having a hood with two sections and having a through drying drum 20 (Oubridge, col. 3, line 4 to col. 4, line 50 and Figure 1). It would have been obvious to combine the teachings of Heikkila and Oubridge because such a combination would provide for faster drying in the design of Heikkila as disclosed by Oubridge (Oubridge, col. 1, lines 25-30). The solids consistency varies from wet paper to dry paper from 25% to as high as 90% (Oubridge, col. 2, lines 14-25).

Claims 38-42, 47-51: Heikkila in view of Oubridge are applied as above for claims 36, 45, Heikkila in view of Oubridge are silent on the temperature variations within the first or second dryer section, however it would have been obvious to one skilled in the art at the time the invention was made, that the temperature variations, increases or decreases in temperature occur within the dryer sections since such variations are controlled by the flow of heated air entering into the dryer sections and the degree to which the air is heated in the incoming air heating equipment.

Conclusion

6) Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Mark Halpern whose telephone number is 571-272-1190. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday to Friday.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Steven Griffin can be reached on 571-272-1189. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

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A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "M. Halpern". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Mark Halpern
Patent Examiner
Art Unit 1731